The Library Assistant:

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EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Next Meeting of the Association will be held at the Tottenham Town Hall (Council Chamber), High Road, N.17, at 7.30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 14th, when Mr. K. G. Hunt, B.A., F.L.A., Superintendent of Branches, Tottenham, will read a paper on "The Development of the Printed Alphabet." The paper will be illustrated by a few specimens of early writing, which will be exhibited in the Council Chamber prior to the meeting.

Members are cordially invited to inspect the Central Library (about three minutes' walk distant) prior to the meeting, and refreshments will be served at the Town Hall, by kind invitation, at 7 p.m.

The Junior meeting will be held at the Library at 6.30 p.m., when a paper by Miss H. M. Gummer, Assistant to the Editor of the Index to Periodicals, will be read. The subject will be "The Index to Periodicals."

The Library is reached by train from Liverpool Street (L.N.E.R.) to Bruce Grove Station, or by tube to Finsbury Park and thence by Bus No. 39 or Tram services 27, 59, 79. Bus services Nos. 69, 69a, 76 and Trams 49, 71 also pass both Town Hall and Library. If the 176 bus route is used, alight at West Green Road, five minutes from Library.

Essay Competition.—So far Assistants have been very sluggish in sending in their essays. By request the last day for forwarding has been extended to December 24th.

Richardson's "Classification."—The Education Committee are desirous of purchasing a second-hand copy of the 2nd edition of Richardson's "Classification." Will any member who owns a copy

which he will sell, please communicate with Mr. Hilton Smith, Ashburton Branch Library, Croydon, stating particulars of condition, and price wanted.

The Special Dance which is being arranged at Lever House, for February 8th, by Mr. J. G. O'Leary, should be a great success. It will be on a considerably larger scale than any dance arranged before by the Association. Tickets (4s. including refreshments), may be obtained from the following members :—

Mr. J. G. O'Leary—Bethnal Green Library, E.2.
Miss Exley—Marylebone Library, W.1.
Mr. F. S. Engall—Fulham Library, S.W.
Mr. Hilton Smith—Ashburton Branch Library, Croydon.
Mr. F. T. Bussey—Hackney Library, E.8.
Mr. S. W. Martin—Lambeth Library, S.E.
Mr. E. Garner,—District Library, Old Kent Road, S.E.
Mr. C. H. Turner—Central Library, Woolwich, S.E.18.

"Seals, Mediæval and Modern," is the title of a lecture by Mr. Hilary Jenkinson, to be given at University College, in connection with the School of Librarianship at 5.15, on December 12th.

L.A. Examinations.—Is it generally known that William's *Manual of Book Selection* contains a very useful list of sixty questions set by examiners in Book Selection during the past few years ? A student who learns the answers to all of these questions, should have no difficulty in " satisfying " the examiners (an insatiable tribe, surely) in this Section of Bibliography.

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held at Tottenham Public Library, December 14th.

We shall shortly all have to face the task of deciding what we think of Lord Elgin's plea for a **United Library Association.** We hope that the discussions which take place on this subject, both in Committee and elsewhere, will be characterized by a real desire to pool the resources of all bibliographical Associations for the common good of the profession. The great difficulty, we fear, will be to induce all concerned to eradicate pettiness and snobbery from the arguments. These annoying and abominable qualities are to be found in both the major associations concerned, but we believe the recent Conference did much to spread the spirit of justice and broadminded tolerance amongst members of all ranks and associations. Nothing is served by ignoring the facts, while everything is to be gained by frank discussion. The great difficulty will be to convince the "Anti-associationists " that it will be possible

for all ranks to belong to one association without embarassing the junior and offending the dignity of the Chief. That we believe to be the main point on which most arguments turn. We once heard the Library Association referred to by a rude Chairman as "this *Librarians'* Association," using librarian in the sense of "Chief Librarian." Nobody wants, surely, to make the L.A. a Chief Librarian's Association, and nobody can deny that its capacity for vigorous action will be greatly increased by the influx of allied associations, particularly of the A.A.L., to its membership. We must all pool our activities, but we want to feel quite sure that in doing so we shall be given adequate means of expression and proportionate control of what, after all, are affairs which concern us all, from the youngest junior to the holder of the highest post in the library world. We feel sure that when the Library Association propose this great and often-rumoured co-ordination, they will find the Council of the Association of Assistant Librarians ready to do anything which they feel will benefit the men and women they represent, and the Profession as a whole. The two are inter-dependent: if they benefit their members they benefit the profession, but if they serve them badly they will be doing incalculable harm. In one sense the A.A.L. controls the future of the profession more than any other body, for when a member becomes a Chief Librarian, his views, part of his professional character and his capacity for labour for the profession as a whole, have already been formed—and formed by the Association which has partly educated him, represented him, given expression to his views and aspirations and, in short, done what no other Association at present can do, given him as an Assistant Librarian, a certain amount of control of the general affairs which affect his livelihood. Unity *must* mean an invigorated enlargement of these activities or else it deserves to be rejected; and if accepted without the assurance of such an enlargement, then it will undoubtedly fail as a means of making librarianship a great profession in all senses of the epithet.

Col. Newcombe's letter on page 256, merits the attention of everybody. It is the most important co-operative effort of its kind which has yet been arranged. Those who visited Brighton in 1925, will remember the splendid books in the Reference Library, referred to in the letter. This may well prove to be one of many similar arrangements, for already we have heard that through the energy of Mr. Berwick Sayers, the Croydon Libraries Committee have given permission for the books under their control to be lent at discretion to the C.L.S. The special collections at Croydon make this latest co-operative effort very important to all of us, librarians and general public as well.

An Institute of Indexing will probably be founded shortly. Those interested should communicate with Mr. W. R. Douglas Shaw,

" Beaufort," Mornington Road, Chingford, E.4. Its objects are to place a register of qualified indexers at the disposal of publishers, authors and editors, etc., to give assistance to those engaged in research by keeping a register of bibliographies ; to foster the compilation of indices to the work of already-published works of celebrated authors, and generally to represent indexers as professional workers giving valuable service to the community.

BOOK-SELLING. YESTERDAY—TO-DAY—TO-MORROW,

By K. Ross Davis.

(*Continued from page* 228.)

Another class of book worthy of the collector's attention is that whose chief feature is illustrations by artists such as Rackham, Whistler, Beardsley, Pennell, Beerbohm and Lovat Fraser. The death of an author often causes an upward bound in popularity, and therefore in the value of his first issues. Some books, through a freak of mass psychology or by " boosting " in the public press, achieve a notoriety which only careful discrimination and sound literary judgment can guard against. A year or two ago great things were predicted for A. S. M. Hutchinson, but I do not think anyone enquires for his works now. To facilitate the exchange of scarce books of all ages the antiquarian book-sellers publish a weekly list of their wants in a journal called " The Clique," copies of which, obtainable by the trade only, find their way into all countries of the world.

I now come to the third part of my address. Is the organisation for bringing together authors and readers in a healthy state, and is it developing along healthy lines ?

Last week, Dean Inge was reported to have said that " we do not want an educated Proletariat." Personally, I think it is very doubtful whether there is any other remedy for our present industrial troubles to compare with education *in its broadest sense*. One hardly dares to think what might have happened to Germany after her collapse in 1918, had she not been, with the possible exception of the U.S.A., the most highly educated country in the world.

After the War ended, and sociologists and statesmen were considering reconstruction, it became recognised that education should be given a place along with the more immediate problems of housing, health and unemployment. This resulted in clauses in the Education Act of 1919, which opened up a new prospect for adult education by the removal of the limitation on the Public Library rate and the conferring on County Councils of power to establish and maintain in Rural Areas, County Library Systems which had their origin under the auspices of the Carnegie Trustees. There is no questioning the assertion that Public Libraries are doing an enormous amount of useful educative

and recreative work in the country, and incidentally are stimulating the book-selling trade.

Of the other great potential factors in education—the Cinema, Theatre, Art Gallery, and the Church, it is probably true to say that, while the drama in England is in a pretty healthy state—the rapidly growing number of amateur dramatic societies testifies to this—the Cinema is probably doing more harm than good. This is a great pity, since it could be of immense value if more carefully utilized. Few local authorities seem as yet to have realised the value of works of art, although a thing of beauty has far more potential educative force than many hours of schooling. One section of the Press is doing a great deal of mischief to the cause of education—and incidentally to the bookseller. I refer to the Daily Newspaper, to which evil reference was made a month ago by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University in his address to the Associated Booksellers. The truth is, that in this country at any rate, few people have yet formed the habit of regarding books as necessities, and folk who would be ashamed to cadge for anything else will adopt any means to read a book short of buying it. It is a peculiar thing that those who every week spend a few shillings on the theatre and think little of purchasing an 8s. 6d. gramophone record, should regard the purchase of a book as a wanton piece of extravagance. I have heard it said—and I think most of you will agree—that to hold this attitude of mind is anti-social, immoral and absurd. Apart from the spiritual loss to the nation which this causes, it is possible to prove that not until the average sale of a book can be stimulated from three thousand to nine thousand copies, can the price be halved. I am talking, of course, of non-fiction, and not of best-sellers, whose " moral uplift " leaves room for doubt. Is it not a reflection on our middle classes that people spend so small a proportion of their income on good books ?

Finally, what kind of books should a bookseller encourage in his shop, and can he discriminate in selling books of a more or less erotic nature ? There has been much discussion in Public Libraries on the advisability of stocking novels and treatises on social and sex questions, and this problem exists in no less degree for the bookseller, being indeed, in his case, aggravated by the fact that he is likely to make a good profit from the indiscriminate sale of this type of book. Unlike films and plays, which are usually passed by a censor before being exposed to the public, books can be banned after their public issue. The safest check on the production of unworthy literature is probably that of public opinion. Most of the books of this type which appear in England are usually printed abroad and sold more or less secretly. A famous book of great cleverness and originality—" Ulysses," by James Joyce, was banned in England, most of the copies of the three or four English editions being destroyed by the Customs authorities,

and such few copies as exist in the country were printed in France and smuggled over. The first edition is probably worth about £40.

I think you would be interested in the description of an honest stationer contained in Withers' "Scholler's Purgatory," a book published in 1682. "An honest stationer is he that exerciseth his mystery (whether it be printing, binding, or selling of books) with more respect to the glory of God and the public advantage, than to his own commodity; and is both an ornament and a profitable member of a civil commonwealth. He is the caterer that gathers together provision to satisfy the curious appetite of the soul, and is careful to his power that whatsoever he provides shall be such as may not poison or distemper the understanding . . . If he be a seller of books he is no mere bookseller, *i.e.*, one who selleth merely ink and paper bundled up together for his own advantage, but he is the chapman of the arts, of wisdom and of much experience for a little money."

If it is too much to hope that in these days of higher taxes and high cost of living we can all live up to this programme in its entirety, yet at any rate I think it may fairly be said, that booksellers as a class will fill an increasingly important function in the life of the community.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

The meeting held on November 23rd, at the National Library for the Blind, it will be remembered, was jointly arranged by the Library Association (Home Counties Branch) and the Association of Assistant Librarians. Nearly two hundred librarians and assistants attended, to hear Miss M. Frost and Messrs. Bolton and Sayers talk on the Departmental Report as it concerns Urban libraries. The attendance was the largest I personally ever remember for an ordinary meeting of either Association. When we heard "Standing Only" shouted out in a large hall it really looked as if assistants were beginning to wake up to the importance of these meetings. Many expressed themselves disappointed with the papers (and they were disappointing, undoubtedly), but the general air of liveliness in the discussion and in the speakers' remarks made the evening very invigorating and enjoyable. I am not writing this because of a desire to be "nice" to everybody, God preserve me from that despicable fate! I have heard that many found the evening dull—I can only retort that they must have brought their dullness with them, and stuck to it. Wandering it was, perhaps at times even trivial, but never dull. What it all amounted to was that we have all got to jolly well work harder to co-operate with each other in order to earn the Burnham scale which is being dangled before our "starved vision."

Miss Frost mentioned a very serious matter which concerned the NALGO, but more of that anon—it was not really germane to the Report.

Quite the most noteworthy feature of the evening was the Chairman's manner of opening the proceedings. With perfect courtesy and infinite tact, Col. Newcombe merely mentioned that the meeting was a joint meeting. He purposely avoided welcoming the A.A.L., for that would have placed the parent association in the position of host. He hoped, he said, that the meeting would result in a real desire on the part of all concerned to link up the two associations in a manner free from pettiness or rancour. His short speech made a great impression on all, and I am certain that it will bear good fruit when the two Associations come to discuss the matter.

F. S. S.

A CLEARING-HOUSE FOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

By Guy W. Keeling,

Secretary: Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux.

Just as the practical utility of a single volume is impaired by the want of an index, so the vast aggregation of human knowledge is bestowing only a portion of its benefits and power on mankind because so much of it is inaccessible to the many who could profit by it. It was with the idea of remedying this to some extent that in September, 1924, a Conference was called at Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, on the instigation of some of the Research Associations connected with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. So keen an interest was shown in the interchange and dissemination of information that the Conference appointed a Standing Committee which in April, 1925, established a permanent organization under the name of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, with an office at 38, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

The main objects of the Association thus formed are to promote the wider distribution of published information, to examine and co-ordinate the activities of special libraries and information bureaux, to establish the principle of free interchange of non-confidential information, and to act as a clearing-house that will indicate to its members where information is obtainable on specific subjects.

As a basis for these activities a Directory of Sources of Specialized Information has been compiled by Mr. G. F. Barwick, B.A., late Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum, in which will be given under subject headings and on as many different branches of knowledge as possible the sources where special collections of material are to be found in Great Britain and Ireland. In view of the enormous field to be covered, the first edition will necessarily be incomplete, but subsequent editions will probably follow and an up-to-date card file of information will be maintained for the use of members.

In considering the work of the ASLIB it should be clearly understood that the Association does not itself supply specific information

direct to inquirers, but aims rather at indicating as definitely as possible those sources where the desired information can be obtained.

Among inquiries recently dealt with were requests from Canada, for a standard list of from 5,000 to 20,000 books suitable for a public library; from India, for the names of "all periodicals on co-operation, economics, and agriculture published in Europe in the European language"; from Japan, for a firm producing centrifugal shot-manufacturing machinery.

An important branch of the Association's work is the annual conference which provides a platform where broad policies with regard to bibliography, indexing, abstracting, and so on may be studied and consistently solved; a dominant note of these conferences is the exceedingly practical value of the papers and discussions.

Some of the potentialities of this young Association were well summarized by Mr. J. G. Pearce, Director of the British Cast Iron Research Association and Chairman of the ASLIB Council, at a recent Conference at Balliol College, Oxford :—

"It can assist in the vexed question of standardizing the size, frequency of appearance and other details of publications which concern the bibliographer.

It can assist in the formulation of a definite policy with regard to abstracting and diminish overlapping and foster co-operation between abstracting agencies.

It can formulate and recommend suitable systems of classification, indexing and filing suitable for specialized information bureaux and libraries.

It might act as a central body for the acquisition of foreign literature and deal with difficulties arising in connection therewith which can only be settled by group pressure.

It might formulate approved registers of experts in various branches of knowledge and other specialists.

It might formulate a register of approved translators for particular languages with a view to co-ordinating the demands for various institutions and bodies for foreign translations. The money spent to-day on translations, if organized, would probably serve to cover a much wider field.

It might act as a clearing-house for back parts or sets of technical periodicals which are now often destroyed as of little or no market value."

The new venture is rapidly placing itself in a position to offer valuable services, but its ultimate success will clearly be directly dependent on the degree of co-operation it can foster between the various bodies engaged in the handling of information.

Further particulars can be obtained on application to 38, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

SPEECH BY VISCOUNT BURNHAM TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS AT GUILDHALL, OCTOBER 5th, 1927.

Viscount Burnham said: Sir Frederic Kenyon, ladies and gentlemen.—Far be it from me to attempt to criticise the pleasing and illuminating address to which we have just listened. I am here this evening in order to show how grateful I feel to that great Dominion of the British Crown which has extended to me so much hospitality and has attracted me more and more each time I have had the opportunity of visiting her. I am also Doctor of the Canadian University of McGill, having received my degree, I fear, not so much in an individual as a representative capacity, on behalf of my colleagues in the profession to which I am proud to belong. Ladies and gentlemen, I think we have felt while we have listened to Dr. Locke that considerable as are the literary achievements which Canada may fairly boast, there is a promise and a potency of much greater influence in the future. (Hear, hear.) I cannot believe the unsurpassed glories of the Canadian country—the forest and the flood, the prairie and the mountain,—will not have even a finer expression in literature than it has yet had. More than that, I cannot help believing that great things will come out of that duality of nationhood which is to my mind the real strength of Canada, and distinguishes it from all the rest of the North American continent—the combination of French brilliancy with British thoroughness. This duality must in the end, I think, give us in the field of literature a fine harvest, which is yet to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do not think we should be in the least perturbed because the letters of Canada have so far partaken so largely of the nature of journalism. I always recollect that Bernard Shaw said that all literature is the highest form of journalism, because all journalism is the highest form of literature (laughter) and he followed it up by saying that the man who writes commonplaces not for a day but for all time finds himself unread and unreadable in any age. Perhaps Canadian literature has been journalistic hitherto both in prose and poetry, because it has been written with a view to the necessities or opportunities of what is sometimes called ephemeral publication. I cannot believe, myself, that the smallness of the output is brought about by the standardisation of education, because the rare spirits who have seen the golden mountain tops where dwells the spirit of the dawn are not to be depressed by any low level of education. Perhaps what has done something to prevent the full expression of Canadian spirit and soul in literature is that the practical work of life has been so predominant in that continental Dominion which, as you know has been at present so inadequately explored, much less settled up, that the

abilities and the imagination of men and women have been overwhelmingly absorbed in the hard tasks of their daily lives, and in the attempt to turn its natural resources not only to their individual profit, but to the common prosperity of the nation. That seems to me, perhaps far more than the stereotyping of educational methods, to be responsible for the fact that we have not had more from Canada than we have had yet, but what we have had is in some ways very good and very sympathetic. There is a wealth of imagery in Canada, and of tradition, in spite of what Dr. Locke has said, both in the British and French origins of her civilisation, which, I am quite certain is going in the future to give us a new branch of our literature, of which those who follow us are sure to reap the full enjoyment.

I have been asked to say a few words this evening, not on so much the subject of the address as to express my sense of what we all owe to the manner in which the librarians in the country are discharging their duty with so much advantage to us all, and with such great devotion to the public interest. In Canada, as you know, they have developed to a very high point the migration of books from place to place in travelling libraries, necessitated by the great distances of the Dominion, and especially in the prairie provinces, and when I was there seven years ago, and when I had larger opportunity, I found the work of education, especially of higher education, could not go on at all there if it were not for the well-established custom of sending books to the student, instead of bringing the student to the books. It shows that what you are doing here by methods possible in our congested land is being done there in other ways and with just as good results. They told me that life in Canada would be not only poorer, but would be terribly lonely if it were not for what the libraries of the great towns, in association with the universities, are doing to-day in order to place the resources of knowledge and inspiration within the grasp of those who live outside the towns on the farms and in the mining camps. I think that deserves our grateful recognition, and I was very pleased to hear the suggestion of Dr. Locke that there should be some linking up of these societies which are composed of librarians at home and in the sister dominions. All I would say is that if that idea be realised, as I hope it may be, it can only be done if we recollect that the dominions claim not to be subordinated in these days, but to be, as they are entitled to be, on terms of equality and brotherhood with ourselves, and that whilst we may derive great benefit from the counsel and assistance of one another in solving these problems which are common to us all, we ought not to attempt to dictate the manner in which they shall be approached, or in which their difficulties may be surmounted.

With great hopes that this may be the result, perhaps, of this evening's meeting here, and of the suggestive words we have heard from Dr. Locke, I thank you, Sir Frederic, for inviting me to speak to this meeting, and I only make the apology of the school-boy to his

master — *non preparatus sum*. I had no idea that I was to speak at all, and I had asked that I should not be called; so that I only did so in obedience to your command.

THE DIVISIONS.

South Western Division.

The inaugural meeting of the South Western Division was held at Portsmouth on Wednesday, October 26th by kind permission of Mr. James Hutt, the City Librarian.

In the afternoon, through the courtesy of the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Rev. W. T. Cotter, a visit was paid to the Bishop's House, where, under the guidance of Mr. Hutt and Father Brockway, the visitors were shown over the Library, the House and the Cathedral. The visit to the Library, which contains a valuable collection of early printed books and illuminated manuscripts was made extremely interesting under the expert guidance of Mr. Hutt, and the members were greatly indebted to Father Brockway for his kindness in permitting the party to see the magnificent vestments and various ecclesiastical ornaments.

After tea, at which the party were the guests of the Bishop, the members adjourned to the Carnegie Library, where the General Meeting was held, Mr. Bryant (Bournemouth) being in the Chair.

The Chairman reported the resignation of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Summerfield, owing to his appointment to the Richmond Public Library. Mr. Bryant moved that Mr. Summerfield's resignation be accepted with regret, and that the thanks of the members be accorded him for his services. Miss Bennett seconded Mr. Bryant's resolution and it was carried unanimously.

At the conclusion of business the Chairman asked Mr. Cooper to read his paper on the Departmental Report, with special reference to the part dealing with the Library Staff. Mr. Cooper's paper proved extremely interesting and provoked an enjoyable discussion, which, unfortunately, time prevented from developing as it promised.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to the Bishop of Portsmouth for his kindness and hospitality, to Mr. Hutt and to Mr. Cooper.

Midland Division.

The second meeting of the session was held at Stourbridge, on Wednesday, October 19th, when over forty members were present.

Arriving about 2 p.m. and proceeding to Amblecote, we were conducted over the crystal glass works of Messrs. T. Webb & Sons (by kind permission of Mr. R. W. Ball).

We were accompanied by Mr. Councillor G. H. Goodyear (Chairman of the Library Committee of Stourbridge Town Council), Alderman F. Taylor (member of the Library Committee), and Mr. F. Bristowe (Librarian, Stourbridge), who had very kindly undertaken all arrangements for the visit.

The art of glass manufacture was shown and explained to us in the various "process" rooms as we wandered from furnaces to show-rooms. Here a fine collection of beautifully carved glass was displayed to advantage.

We were entertained to tea at Messrs. Pott's Café, High Street, by kind invitation of the Mayor (Alderman L. J. Cook), who welcomed us to the Borough.

Mr. Cashmore, responding, thanked the Mayor for his welcome and kind hospitality. At the evening meeting (Mr. Cashmore presiding) the first paper by Mr. Sargeant (Coventry) on "W. H. Hudson; an appreciation," was read by Miss M. S. Taylor, B.A.

The second paper was given by Mr. Chubb (Librarian, Technical Library, Birmingham) on the Report of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education on Public Libraries.

As the Report was to be dealt with in detail at a future meeting, Mr. Chubb confined himself to a summary of its principal contents and recommendations.

The Report traces the history of Public Libraries in England and Wales, from the earliest times to the present; concluding with recommendations for their improvement.

Statistics show that 96·3 per cent. of the population reside in library areas. Unfortunately, it did not always follow that a library area provided a library service.

The Committee pointed out that future development would depend mainly on inter-library co-operation. This would mean the grouping of public libraries around regional centres and the establishment of a central library as the centre of the whole system of a National Library service.

In conclusion, Mr. Chubb expressed admiration for the spirit of the Report and the work of the Committee. The Report made quite clear the fact that much was still to be done in the way of development and progress.

Mr. A. R. Williams proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. C. Lindsay, to the readers of the papers.

Mr. H. Woodbine proposed and Miss E. M. Bradshaw seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Bristowe for making the arrangements, and Messrs. Thomas Webb and Sons. Mr. Bristowe replied.

We were afterwards entertained to a musical programme, which very agreeably brought to an end a successful meeting.

E. M. B.

South Eastern Division.

The next meeting of the Division will be held by kind permission of Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., F.L.A., at the Brighton Public Library, on Friday, January 20th, 1928.

The meeting will take the form of a "Magazine Night." All contributions should be sent anonymously to the undersigned not later than Saturday, January 7th, 1928.

Further details will be announced later. Grace L. Dean.

North-Western Division.

The Annual Meeting of the Division was held at Birkenhead on Wednesday, October 19th, 1927, over fifty members attending. Meeting at the Woodside Landing Stage the party was conveyed by two special motor buses (by courtesy of the Birkenhead Tramways Committee) *via* Birkenhead Park to the Tapestry Works of Messrs. Arthur H. Lee and Sons, Ltd.

The nature of the work carried on at the Tapestry Works, includes dyeing, weaving, hand-blocking, and embroidery, all being executed by workers drawn from the locality. The designs are true to British tradition in character and quality, and though many of the period designs are deliberately taken from old examples at the South Kensington Museum, etc., the ideas of the old designs have been developed. By modern organisation methods, including time and motion study, standardisation and planning, they maintain a high standard of quality and produce goods with the least possible waste of effort and material. It was an extremely interesting and entertaining visit.

Boarding the buses once more we were taken for a very enjoyable circular run round the district, touching Bidston, Moreton, Thurstaston Hall, Heswall and Arrowe.

Tea was very kindly provided in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library by Alderman E. G. Mason, J.P., Chairman of the Birkenhead Libraries, Museum and Arts Committee.

The business meeting was held in the Lecture Hall (by kind permission of J. Shepherd, Esq., F.L.A., Chief Librarian), the retiring President (Mr. H. Fostall), in the chair. The Annual Report was adopted and the following officers appointed :—

President: R. W. Lynn (Wallasey).
Hon. Treasurer: H. Hamer (Bolton).
Hon. Secretary: R. Howarth (Warrington).

Council:

Bolton Division: Misses McLardy and Pashley; Messrs. G. R. Axon, J. Hindle, H. Fostall, A. E. Dillon, W. G. Fry, D. D. Nichols, T. Noble.

Liverpool Division: Misses O. Rothwell, L. J. Baker, A. F. Donaldson, A. M. Roberts, Messrs. R. W. Lynn, J. A. Carr, T. J. Law, R. Bioletti, and J. Leather.

The new President then took the Chair, and delivered his Presidential Address. A good discussion followed in which Messrs. Axon and Fry (Manchester), Howarth (Warrington), Phillips and Law (Liverpool), Hamer (Bolton), and Edwards (St. Helens), took part.

Votes of thanks to the President for his excellent address, to Alderman Mason, Messrs. A. H. Lee and Sons, Ltd., Tramways Committee, and to Mr. Shepherd and his staff were carried with acclamation.

Annual Report.

The Council beg to submit the following report for the year 1926-7:

Membership.—The present membership is 175 against 160 last year, an increase of 15.

Meetings.—October 13: Annual Meeting at Manchester; November 24th, visit to S.S. "Baltic," and meeting at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; February 9th: Meeting at Blackburn; April 6th: Meeting at Wallasey.

Full reports and digests of papers have appeared regularly in the LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

Finance.—Liverpool: Balance, £7 1s. 9½d.; Bolton: Balance, £5 15s. 4d.

Liverpool District.

Education.—Classes in Classification, Cataloguing, Library Organisation, and Library Routine were held at the Central Technical School, the teachers being Messrs. Wickens, Lynn, Phillips, Clausson, and Cochran.

Library.—A special effort is being made to augment the Library with a view to meeting all requests from students for professional literature. It is felt that the need for the provision of those books within reasonable financial reach of students is less urgent than for that of the more costly books, such as Sayer's Classification Manual. The Library now possesses three copies of this book, the first was presented by Mr. E. C. Wickens, to whom our very best thanks are offered, and two have been purchased.

Holiday Fund.—The Hon. Secretaries reported on the inauguration of a holiday fund for members. The fund is proving a success, and any Bank interest accruing will be devoted to the purchase of books for the professional library.

Social Activities.—Social Committee reported during the year Christmas Social, Whist Drive, and five Theatre evenings had been organised and carried through with great success.

Acknowledgements.—The Council on behalf of the Division would like to express once more the very sincere thanks of the Division to the Civic authorities, Librarians, Speakers, and friends, who have contributed to the success of the meetings.

Although the Session has been enjoyable and in many ways very successful, the Council do not regard it as entirely satisfactory. The Membership has been steadily increasing during the past few years, but even now it consists of only a very small percentage of the assistants in the area. The Council would like to appeal for an increase in membership, and particularly for an increase in attendance at meetings, the present attendance averaging between 50 and 60; for it is only by members taking an active part in its activities that the Association can realise its objects and establish itself as a real potent factor in Librarianship.

Signed on behalf of the Council,
H. FOSTALL, *President.*
R. HOWARTH, *Hon. Secretary.*

OUR LIBRARY.

Carnegie U.K. Trust. County Libraries in Great Britain and Ireland. Report 1926-7. pp. 58 and statistical tables.

County Librarians will probably regard this Report as a most valuable text-book more than as a Report. Let those who imagine it to be dull obtain a copy—we venture to think that if they are interested in its subject that they will spend more time on it than they anticipate. In a notice such as this it is unfortunately impossible to touch on more than a few points. "It would be idle," says the Report, "to argue that in any county the library service is as yet fully developed." The average rate for the country shows this to be true, for it is obviously impossible to develop a system fully on hundreds of pounds, when thousands of pounds would hardly be adequate. It is noticeable, however, that there is a distinct rise in the money granted for use on books in the county systems. This must inevitably lead to greater issues and with greater issues will come the Librarian's greatest argument for more money—the obvious inadequacy of his book stock to keep pace with the demands made on it. With the memorandum printed herein nobody can disagree who is aware of actualities in the County Libraries. Special stress is laid on the undue emphasis often laid on the provision of children's books to the unavoidable neglect of the adult stock, and on the inadequate staff and salary of most County Librarians. We are particularly glad to see it pointed out that an average county rate of ½d. would meet immediate needs. This trifling increase in the county rate should be negligible even to the most cheeseparing Councillor —but it isn't. One despicable Council allows the County Librarian (Salary, £300) to pay for an assistant (£70 p.a.) *out of her own pocket*. We should like to be on the Bench when these Councillors are prosecuted!

> "There have been a few cases in which librarians—most of whom are young and necessarily without administrative knowledge and experience—have undoubtedly felt that they were being treated as clerks. They have been denied access to their committees; even in the matter of book selection they have not been called upon to advise."

We should have liked to say that the Trustees had written "unfortunately without administrative knowledge"—why "necessarily without"? We feel sure, that since the Trustees are paying the piper that they would have obtained their own way had they from the commencement insisted on the appointment of trained librarians and trained librarians only.

The Report contains a practical article by Capt. Wright (Middlesex) on the Motor Van, and a series of tables showing issues, salaries, stock, etc. The main impression given to the reader is that on the whole County Library affairs are not stagnating—they are moving towards the ideal, however slowly. In

many cases Councils are getting more and better service than they pay for, but the Departmental Report and the splendid work of the Trustees will eventually secure something like an adequate return for labour so unselfishly given. The Trustees have once again placed the profession in their debt.

F. S. S.

Newcombe (Luxmoore). The University and College Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland: a guide to the material available for the research student. (Bumpus, 10s. 6d.; Cloth; pp. 220.)

This is one of those indispensable works of reference which all librarians will (or should) buy as a matter of course. Now we have it, we shall wonder how we ever managed to do without it. Col. Newcombe here does for the University Libraries what Mr. Rye has done for London's Libraries and what the ASLIB Directory will do for the specialist libraries of the United Kingdom. There is a little overlapping in these three indispensable works of course, but that was inevitable and is trivial.

The work under review answers two main questions. First, where can I find a special or good collection of books on ——— (here insert any subject you like from Vesuvius or Patristics to Vegetable Preservation or Worms)? Reference to the subject index will refer you to a numbered entry. Turning to the entry thus indicated you will find full particulars arranged under such headings as foundation, librarian, hours of opening, stock, incunabula, periodicals filed, special collections, catalogue and facilities for borrowing, etc. Second, I live in ——— (here insert the name of any University or College town in Great Britain and Ireland), what kind of books are available for my use? Much minor information is also given, such as the location of special collections known by the name of their owners, etc. Of these, mention may be made of the "Festing Jones" collection of books by and concerning Samuel Butler. How many people could give particulars of this collection, and before the publication of this admirable guide how many Reference Librarians could have ascertained its location quickly? This collection and the Smith Rabelais collection are housed at St. John's (Cambridge). The scale of charges for the reproduction of MSS., books, photographs, etc., is often given—incidentally we notice that the Oxford charges are: "Rotographs (white on black)—11 × 9 in., 2s.; $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$ in., 1s.; plus 1s. for each volume dealt with." We presume these charges, therefore, are *per page*, but it is not quite clear.

Only usage (and our own library copy will get plenty of that) will reveal those errors which creep even into a volume so carefully compiled as this one, but so far we have found none. We should have liked, however, to have seen a few more synonymous headings used in the subject index, Patristics, for instance should also be entered under the Fathers.

Col. Newcombe has done an immense service to every serious student and every librarian in compiling this guide, and we sincerely hope that it will be included in the stock of every library in the kingdom.

F. S. S.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries. Calendar of the Greenwell deeds in the Public Reference Library. Compiled by Joseph Walton.

This calendar of deeds referring to the history of Newcastle and district has been admirably prepared by the sub-librarian of Newcastle. Arranged in chronological order, it covers a period stretching from the 12th to the early 19th century. There could be no better example of public spirit on the part of the donor and of a public library adequately filling its proper sphere as a collector of the raw material of local history.

Judging from the entry (number 269) for an indenture between John, Prior of Durham and John Hossour and Richard Couhird, A.D., 1398-99, the matter of Coal even in those days demanded strict agreements. The seals attached to deeds of particular interest have been reproduced here and this gives an added value to a compilation which undoubtedly will be of great use to the future historians of Durham and Northumberland.

J. G. O'L.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS.

(Books that should not be missed.)

Buchan, John. Witch Wood : a novel. (Hodder, 7s. 6d.)

[Here] " Mr. Buchan has deserted spy haunts for witch hunts, and has taken for his hero the young minister of a Lowland village during the Civil War."—*Nation*. In action, characterisation and history, it is one of the finest books Mr. Buchan has written.

Cunliffe, John W. Modern English playwrights. (Harper, 10s. 6d.)

This is the third volume in the *Plays and Playwrights* series. The earlier volumes, *Elizabethan Playwrights* and *Typical Elizabethan Plays*, both by Felix Schelling, are both interesting and authoritative. Commencing with 1825, the present work brings us to Coward and Sean O'Casey.

Cunningham, George H. London. (Dent, 21s.)

Yet another addition to the plethora of books on London, but arranged on a new, and, I think, useful plan. Witness the sub-title—"A comprehensive survey of the history, tradition, and historical associations of buildings and monuments, arranged under streets in alphabetical order." The book deserves a heavier and more opaque paper.

Dane, Clemence. Mariners : a play. (Heinemann, 6s.)

Drinkwater, John. Bird in hand : a play. (Sidgwick & Jackson, 3s. 6d.)

Reviewed in the *Bookman* for October.

Grant, L. A Chronicle of Rye. (Noel Douglas, 8s. 6d.)

" Places," someone has said—I forget where I have read it—" places are personal. They should happen to one just as love, or an idea, happens." Few, I imagine, will read this book without registering a mental note to pay an early visit to this quaint Sussex town.

Kossak, Sophia. The Blaze. (Allen & Unwin, 7s. 6d.)

Mme. Sophia Kossak-Szczucka is one of Poland's most prominent post-war writers. Her story is an eye-witness account of the tremendous upheaval in Volhynia, during the years 1917-19, caused by the extension to Poland of the Bolshevik propaganda for expropriating the landlords.

Manwaring, G. E. (ed.). The Diary of Henry Teonge. (Routledge, 12s. 6d.)

A volume in the excellent *Broadway Travellers* series. Teonge was chaplain successively on board H.M.S. "Assistance," "Bristol," and "Royal Oak," from 1675-1679.

Maugham, W. Somerset. The Letter: a play. (Heinemann, 3s. 6d.)

Mayo, Katherine. Mother India. (Cape, 10s. 6d.)

This sweeping indictment of social conditions in India has already reached its fifth impression, and will be one of the season's best sellers. It has been answered by Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer, of the Indian Legislative Assembly, in *Father India*, published by Messrs. Selwyn & Blount, in November.

Stendhal. (Marie-Henri Beyle). Scarlet and black. Trans. by C. K. Scott-Moncrieff. (Chatto & Windus, 2 v. 15s.)

Stendhal has been too long neglected. Mr. Moncrieff, however, has determined that the neglect shall cease. Prior to *Le Rouge et le Noir*, he has translated *La Chartreuse de Parme*, and the volume of short stories called *L'abbesse de Castro*, recommended in this column in November, 1926. The translator has finely caught the spirit of Stendhal's autobiographical method, and these translations will do much to gain for Stendhal the wider public that his work merits.

A propos of Stendhal, an excellent exposition of his method appears in a volume of philosophical criticism, entitled *Messages*, by Ramon Fernandez, which has just been published by Mr. Jonathan Cape.

G. E. H.

SHORT NOTICES

of Reports, Catalogues, Pamphlets, etc.

Liverpool City Libraries. Lecture Programmes, 1927-8.

Among the most notable lecturers are Capt. Evans, F. A. Mackenzie, Sir A. Lane, and the City Librarian (on Liverpool) himself.

Bangalore (India) Public Library, 12th Annual Report.

It will surprise many to learn that the Public Library at Bangalore contains more than 12,000 volumes, classified by Dewey's scheme, that there are 800 registered borrowers, that the last annual issue was 20,000, that the Library Committee "train candidates for Librarianship by giving practical lessons in the elements of library economy," and that story hour classes for children are held.

Pittsburgh. Monthly Bulletin, Oct., 1927.

Westminster. Report, 1926-7.

A business-like report drawn up on the lines suggested by the Library Association. The Chairman of the Committee says many things of force and truth concerning the hopelessly silly way in which London's libraries are being run. Ancient boundaries, and petty local feeling are being allowed to stand in the way of any intelligent progress towards a coherent and unified scheme of management.

Sheffield Public Libraries. Recent additions, List No. 1.

We welcome this latest addition to the lists of latest additions. Such lists are the only opportunity librarians have of judging the standard of book selection followed in other libraries. We have nothing but praise for the list under discussion. Incidentally we notice the "Nonesuch" edition of Blake's pencil drawings, Tom Brown's "Amusements," Cobbett's "Peter Porcupine" (Nonesuch), Crashaw's "Poems" (O.U.P.), and Etherege's "Works." These are real books, we wonder how many libraries possess them?

Bolton. Annual Report, 1926-7.

Another good report. Here again, is a list of principal additions to the Reference Library. There are some truly beautiful books among them —Buryon's "Catalogue of Chinese frescoes (The Eumorfopoulos Collection), Giafferri's "History of feminine costume," Hobson's Monographs on Bookbinding, Horman's "Vulgaria," Loo and Michel's" Early Flemish paintings," Read's "Stained glass," Tatlock's "Spanish Art," etc. We should like to show this list to the people who still look upon the Public Library as a purveyor of cheap fiction for cheap minds.

Brooklyn Public Library. Bulletin. Oct., 1927.

Libraries: a monthly review, Oct., 1927. (Chicago).

Finsbury Public Libraries: Quarterly Guide, Oct., 1927.

Islington. Report, 1927.

We congratulate the Borough Librarian of Islington on getting the work of his libraries into print—the activities of the four libraries well merit attention and permanent record. The total annual issues are well over a million, the number of borrowers 45,500. The number of *tickets* in use is not indicated. Islington is one of the comparatively few libraries where the sheaf catalogue has superseded the card form, and from indications given it appears that it is proving very efficient. Two suggestions occur to us—would it not be better to give statistics, etc., in the form laid down by the Library Association, and could not a list of principal additions to the Reference Library be squeezed in?

Hornsey. Quarterly Review, vol. 1, No. 1.

Bowers (C. G.). The Founders of the Republic. (A.L.A. Reading with a Purpose Series.)

A useful guide to the men to whom the U.S.A. owes its early history as a Republic. We are not quite sure that the books recommended would all pass an inspection by "Big Bill Thompson," in fact, we hope they wouldn't; but they are all fairly well known histories, and Mr. Bowers' running commentary should induce people to read them, and others as good and better. We should have liked to have seen Phillips Russell's "Benjamin Franklin" included.

Halifax. Readers' Guide, October, 1927.

Library Journal. October, 1927.

Contains some interesting notes on Children's pageants in connection with a Community Book Week.

Twickenham Public Library. Report, 1926-7.

Library Review: Autumn Number.

Principal Contents: The Departmental Report, by Sir F. G. Kenyon; A.L.A. Toronto Conference, by Col. J. M. Mitchell; Organized Education and Library Service, by R. C. I. Mair; The Drama, by E. Osborn, and Edinburgh as a Literary Centre, by Lewis Spence.

Phelps (W. L.). Twentieth Century American novels. (A.L.A. Reading with a Purpose Series.)

An admirably written introduction to the best in American fiction by a well-known critic. The selection is good and nothing absurdly hyperbolical is claimed for it. "American fiction is not so good as British fiction, for two obvious reasons: the youth of our country, and its size. Culture can neither be bought nor manufactured: its roots must be deep, and its growth requires time." When you read this at the commencement you know that the author knows what he is talking about and is not afraid to say what he thinks.

Bristol. Annual Report, 1926-7.

This report is well printed and contains many good illustrations revealing Bristol library as certainly one of the best in the South of England. The work performed is enormous in scope and includes a "Library of Commerce," of which great use has been made. The North Branch Lending Library looks a beautifully planned and spacious room and raises great hopes of the Central. An illustration of this is not given, however.

Bolton Public Libraries. Catalogue. (Class List No. 8—Natural Science). (Boards; pp. 257. Price 6d. plus 4½d. postage.)

This, the second edition of a class list issued ten years ago, is classified on the Dewey Decimal system. Acknowledgements are made by the Librarian to Mr. H. Hamer and Mr. W. Smith, members of his staff, who have materially helped in the compilation. The catalogue is nicely printed and occasionally annotated. The proof reading has been exceptionally well done, and when it is remembered that this section includes zoology, botany, and birds, cataloguers will realize that this is no mean praise. The library appears to be very well stocked, and we imagine that few can boast of such an extensive list in class 500. We have wickedly spent ten minutes looking for gaps and omissions amongst the modern books and have found not one. Beebe, J.W.N.S., Huxley, Thorpe, Luff and Candy, Bohr, Fournier d'Albe, J. N. Friend, Von Richter, etc., they are all there ready for service. By the way we notice Fournier d'Albe is entered thus: Albe (E. E. F. d')—this is horrid; we suggest: *Fournier d'Albe* (*E. E.*) to be much better and more in keeping with the author's own usage. In any case a reference must be given from Fournier. That d' in brackets is always a nuisance—Annunzio (G. d') is correct, but what a pity it isn't wrong!

F. S. S.

APPOINTMENTS.

*Hill, Ivy, Senior Assistant at Newton-in-Makerfield, to be Senior Assistant, Stretford. Four L. A. Certificates and the Oxford Junior Local. (Salary: £112, plus £70 bonus p.a.). Also selected: The Misses *D. Leighton (Stockport), *D. Garner (Wallasey), D. J. Serjeant (Newark), and *E. K. West (Croydon).

McKinnon, James, Assistant in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, to be Third Assistant in the Bethnal Green Library. Four L. A. Certificates, and Matriculation. (Salary, £208 p. a., rising to £245.) Also selected: L.A. Marcus (St. Pancras), *H. Chivers (Kidderminster), Stanley Snaith (Kingston). The last named withdrew before interview.

*Wilkins, G. H., to be Junior Assistant, Bethnal Green. (Salary, £68 p. a.). Matriculation Certificate.

*Summerfield, J. V., Assistant at Portsmouth, to be Senior Assistant at Richmond Library. Five L.A. Certificates, one with "merit," and Senior Oxford. (Salary, £176 16s. 0d., rising by £13 increments to £241 16s. 0d., plus £10 p.a. for Certificates and a further £15 when Diploma is obtained). Also selected: Messrs. *E. J. Hatton (Warrington) and *W. J. Hill (Woolwich).

* *Member of the A.A.L.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

4th November, 1927.

SIR,—It may interest your readers to know that the Committee of the Brighton Public Library have authorised their Librarian, Mr. H. D. Roberts, to lend books at his discretion through the Central Library for Students. The Brighton Public Library contains many books which may be of value to students and readers in other parts of the country. The special collections include some 2,000 volumes on art, the Bloomfield Collection of books on French language and literature, and Mathew's Oriental Collection, the Halliwell-Phillip's Shakespeare Collection, and a large collection of books on Sussex.

Not only will this generous offer enable the Central Library to obtain many books which it might otherwise be unable to supply, but it is, so far as I am aware, the first step taken by any public library, to put into practice the spirit of co-operation underlying the Report of the Public Libraries Committee. It is to be hoped that many other Library Committees will follow the example set by Brighton.

Yours faithfully,

LUXMOORE NEWCOMBE, *Librarian.*

CENTRAL LIBRARY FOR STUDENTS.

NEW MEMBERS.

Members.—Mildred G. H. Southerden (Croydon); Elsie Beavis, Muriel Joyce Page (Ilford); James Bragg, William Cook (Stepney); Paul Ewart Haines (Watford).

Associates.—Kathleen Carter, Elsie McGivering (Ilford); G. H. Wilkins (Bethnal Green).

MIDLAND DIVISION.—Miss Johnson, Miss Farmaner, Miss Ingram, Miss Long, Miss L. Shepherd (Birmingham); C. S. Cox (Leicester); Miss E. G. Burland (Coventry).

NORTH EASTERN DIVISION.—*Members.*—Miss I. Jones (Ossett); Miss D. Newbould (Middlesbrough); Miss P. Daft (Leeds); Miss M. Phillips (Carlisle); Miss P. Lendren (County Library, Wakefield); W. Bowman, R. Lyde, Miss N. Cunningham (Sunderland); Miss V. Tucker (York); Miss M. Corry, Miss R. Dickinson (Newcastle-upon-Tyne). *Associates.*—Miss E. Bolam, Miss M. Wadsworth (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); Miss W. Bishop, Miss F. Mitchell (Gateshead).

NORTH WESTERN DIVISION.—*Members.*—G. Eric Haslam, Miss F. E. Wigley (Manchester); T. D. Pearce (St. Helen's).

JUNIOR MEETINGS.

PROGRAMME.

December.—A paper by Miss H. M. Gummer, Assistant to the Editor of the Index to Periodicals. "The Subject Index to Periodicals."

January.—"Psychology of Library Advertising and Publicity," by W. H. Woodham, of Wood Green Public Library.

March.—"On Reading," by J. Gilliam, of Croydon Public Libraries.

April.—"Children and Reading," by J. Luck, of Bethnal Green Public Library.

May.—"Bibliographical Collation," by R. N. Thomas, of Bromley Public Library, E.14.

Association of Assistant Librarians.

ANNUAL REPORT,

1926-27.

Association of Assistant Librarians.

32nd ANNUAL REPORT, 1926-27.

Membership.—The total membership now stands at 1,008, made up as follows: Honorary Fellows, 20; Fellows, 33; Members, 781; Associates, 174. It is with justifiable pride that we place on record, for the first time, that the 1,000 membership mark has been reached. This has been the objective for several years past, and now all efforts must be exerted to increase still further the rate of yearly additions and to raise the membership to 2,000. And then the Association will be something like a full representation of the number of Assistants in the country. However, it is gratifying and encouraging to remember that since 1923 the membership has increased from 664 to the present proud total; a grand increase of 344 in four years.

Finance.—The finances of the Association continue in a satisfactory state. The total receipts for the year amounted to £345 2s. 2d., a little less than last year, but considerably in excess of any previous year's total.

The total expenditure was £357 19s. 7d. Of this amount £255 3s. 9d. was spent on the printing and distribution of THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT, the largest sum yet spent in one year for this purpose. The balance carried forward to 1927-28 is £77 8s. 8d.

Benevolent Fund.—Grants from this fund have been made to two members during the year, £5 to a London member and £20 to a Yorkshire member. The latter has unfortunately been in need of extended assistance, and a special appeal was made on his behalf, in the March number of THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT." As a result donations amounting to £16 15s. 0d. were received. The Council wish to thank all those who generously subscribed. The receipt of a further £5 profits on the sale of "Sequel Stories," and a grant of £5 from the general funds of the Association brings the balance carried forward to the respectable total of £129 17s. 3d.

The Association's Library.—Except for the lists of additions, very little has appeared in the ASSISTANT this year about the library, which, however, has been well used by those assistants who are alive to its worth. During the past year a very handsome gift of library text-books was presented to the collection though the kind agency of Col. Luxmoore Newcombe, of the Central Library for Students. The number of borrowers was 55, and the issues 506. Although an increase on previous years, the number of borrowers represents only

a small proportion of the total membership and the librarian would urge those members who have benefited by the use of the library to tell their colleagues, who perhaps do not realise that it is available for their use too. Since the last report, all the books have been accessioned and a stock book has been made. The opportunity is gladly taken here to express to Mr. W. J. Harris, Chief Librarian of Islington, the Association's grateful thanks for his continued kindness in allowing the library to be housed in his central library, and to Miss S. Toms for her invaluable services as Honorary Librarian.

The "Library Assistant."—The regular monthly issue of the official journal is the result of the loyal co-operation of all members of the Council, and particularly of those who constitute the Press and Publications Committee. The papers read before the Association have all been worthy of publication, some indeed have been of such high quality that one ventures to think that few journals of a similar nature could excel the LIBRARY ASSISTANT from a literary point of view. In the *London Mercury*, reprinting its best contributions in book form, an excellent example presents itself for future enterprise on the part of the Association. Endeavour has been made to give as much space as possible to provincial affairs and to make the contents as informative and varied as a professional journal like the ASSISTANT can be. Contributions have ranged, it will be found, from notes on cataloguing to a view of libraries by a non-librarian, from an article by Papini on his experiences in the libraries of Rome to one on the librettists of English opera. The Council wishes to place on record its earnest thanks to all who have assisted in the production and distribution of the journal; to Mr. J. E. Walker, Chief Librarian, Fulham, for the continued use of his library in which to store the files of the ASSISTANT; and to Miss Johnson of the Fulham staff for her custodianship of the files. Since July Mr. F. A. Bussey (as the capable successor to Mr. G. F. Vale) has effectively and voluntarily supervised the advertisements side of the ASSISTANT.

"Sequels."—As foreshadowed in the last annual report the demand for a new and revised edition of "Sequel Stories" has been sufficient to justify the Council in authorising its preparation. Mr. W. H. Parker, Chief Librarian of Hackney, with the co-operation of Mr. F. S. Smith, the Honorary Editor, and other members of the Press and Publications Committee, has zealously undertaken to prepare the new edition which is promised for April, 1928. The new "Sequels" will be greatly improved, and will contain, besides the most up-to-date information possible, a specially written introduction on sequel stories by Mr. Parker. The Council expects the members of the Association to support this venture loyally; they wish members to look upon it as their own enterprise, since all profits will go towards the Benevolent Fund.

Monthly Meetings.—Meetings have been held regularly throughout the Session in all parts of the country. The inaugural meeting was held in the Council Chamber at Lincoln's Inn, when a gathering of 95 members and friends was addressed by the noted literary critic, Mr. Desmond MacCarthy. Other meetings were held at the National Liberal Club, Southwark Central Library, West Ham and Chiswick, while a joint meeting with the Eastern Counties Division was held at Colchester in May. All the meetings have been well attended, the papers have been uniformly valuable and well-informed, and the ensuing discussions have been animated and original. Meetings of the Junior Section have been held prior to the general meetings, and it is pleasing to record that the papers read have been of a high order and were followed by excellent and interesting discussions. The Council wishes to put on record its sense of deep obligation and gratitude to the many friends who have helped to make the Session interesting, profitable, and enjoyable.

Social Events.—These have been a strong feature of the Association's work both in the Provinces and in London ; but the extra provision made for this type of activity in London did not meet with the response anticipated. For the first time the Council dropped two ordinary monthly meetings in favour of two dances. But the number of actual members present at each of these was small and disappointing. The attendance at the Whist Drive arranged in April in addition to the ordinary meeting was also poor. Although socially these functions were a success, the Council does not feel justified in continuing the experiment, and the usual monthly meetings will be arranged for next Session, any social events being arranged as additions to the ordinary meetings. Cricket matches arranged for June and September have proved popular and promise to become a regular feature.

Classes for Assistants.—Instruction work for members has been a prominent feature of the Association for many years past, especially in the Midland and North-Western Divisions where the efforts of both tutors and pupils have been very successful and highly meritorious. Last year it was decided that these Divisional efforts should be co-ordinated and centralised under a national scheme, and for this purpose a small sub-committee was elected to which Miss E. M. Exley was appointed Hon. Secretary. The national scheme was put into operation last November, when classes were commenced in preparation for all sections of the Library Association Examination in May, 1927. These classes were open to all members of the Association at a cost of 12s. 6d. per class. It will be seen from the following tables that the whole of the work of tuition has been undertaken by the members of the various Divisions, and the Council wishes to offer those members its warmest and sincerest thanks for the excellent

services they have rendered the Association and to give expression to its sense of appreciation and satisfaction for the added measure of usefulness they have placed to the Association's credit. The following generously offered their services as tutors :—

Section 1. Mr. Kemp (Mid. Div.), Mr. Rennie (N.E. Div.)
Section 2. Mr. Pearson (N.E. Div.), Mr. Woodbine (Mid. Div.)
Section 3. Mr. Treliving (Yorks. Div)., Mr. Burton (Mid. Div.), Mr. Muskett (Yorks. Div.)
Section 4. Mr. Haigh (Yorks. Div.), Mr. Philips (N.W. Div.), Mr. Patrick (Mid. Div.)
Section 5. Mr. Clausson (N.W. Div.), Mr. Cochran (N.W. Div.) Mr. Richards (N.E. Div.)
Section 6. Mr. Chubb (Mid. Div.), Mr. Cochran (N.W. Div.), Mr. Richards (N.E. Div.).

The total number of students enrolled was 109 and the amount received in fees £68 2s. 6d.

Section 1, 26 students ; Section 2, 20 ; Section 3, 17 ; Section 4, 27 ; Section 5, 5 ; Section 6, 14.

Numbers from the various Divisions : Midland, 39 ; North Eastern, 14 ; North Western, 15 ; South Coast, 5 ; Yorkshire, 10 ; London and isolated areas, 26.

The tutors reported that the students seemed to be good workers and that the number enrolled was fairly satisfactory.

Richardson's "Classification"—This work has been out of print for several years now, and as it is one of the text-books required both for the Library Association and University of London School of Librarianship Examinations, representations were made to Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons for a re-issue of the " Classification." Messrs. Scribner's after several weeks of negotiating replied that the matter of a re-issue was not in their hands. An appeal was then made direct to Professor Richardson himself, and in reply he has agreed to take up the matter at once with his printer, and to issue a single reprint or a reprint with one or two additional systems, and perhaps an appendix or two of useful matter. It is hoped that this new edition will be ready by the autumn of the present year.

Library Association.—The annual elections returned once again the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. P. Jones, as a member of the Library Association Council. At the first meeting of the Membership Committee he was re-elected its Chairman for the fourth successive year, and in addition to his election to the Membership Committee, Mr. Jones was also appointed a member of the Education, the Finance and the Publicity Committees. In July, Mr. H. A. Sharp after three years of

valuable service as a member of the Education Committee, representing the Council of the Association, resigned, and Mr. F. E. Sandry was elected in his stead; Mr. Sandry has continued, in that position, to watch the interests of the assistant and to maintain the happy relationships between the two Associations. The Council of the Library Association too, re-elected Mr. Sandry, at the request of the Council, as a member of the Committee of the University of London School of Librarianship. At the Annual Conference of the Association held September last, in the city of Leeds, the Honorary Secretary attended as the official representative. During the year representations have been made to the Council, in behalf of your Association, on several matters; a request was made that an English edition of the joint-Anglo-American cataloguing rules should be produced; at the request of the Yorkshire Division a suggestion was forwarded that the Library Association examinations should be conducted under the auspices of the Chief Education Officer of the towns from which the candidates come; and a last proposal that a copy of the Annual Business Agenda and Annual Report should be sent to every member of the Association, seven days at least before the Annual Meeting, was adopted.

Officers and Council.—Forty-seven meetings of the Council and its Committees have been held during the past year; and this in itself is an indication of the amount of time and labour devoted by the members of the Council to the services of the Association. Very little change took place in the personnel and only one vacancy occurred. In January, Mr. Harry Cross, the Honorary Editor, consequent upon his appointment to the Librarianship of Kingston-on-Thames, severed a six years' official connection with the Association. During the whole of this time he always endeavoured to give the Association his whole-hearted services, and by the excellent work he achieved as Honorary Editor he earned the warmest and grateful thanks of the Association. This vacancy was filled at the January meeting of the Association by the election of Mr. F. S. Smith, of the Bethnal Green Public Libraries; and his previous work for the Association, especially in connection with the preparations of the "Books of the Month" encourages the belief that the succession of worthy and successful Editors will be maintained. Mr. Smith's election to the Honorary Editorship created a vacancy on the Council (London side), which was filled at the March meeting of the Association, when Mr. K. G. Hunt, B.A., of the Tottenham Public Libraries, was elected by ballot. Mr. G. W. Strother relinquishes his office of President after a year of useful and distinguished service. In spite of his geographical difficulties, Mr. Strother made several successful attempts to attend the meetings of the Council, and on three occasions made the journey to London for that purpose. He came to the Inaugural Meeting of the Association in October

at Lincoln's Inn, and presided over the gathering. At the same time he has continued, in his own Division of Yorkshire, to exert his wide influence in the interests of the profession in general and of the Association in particular. All who have ever come in contact with him know that whatever office he undertakes to perform he brings to his duties a ceaseless energy, an infectious enthusiasm and an ample graciousness. At the Annual Conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux held at Oxford, in September, Mr. H. Cross attended as the official representative of the Association. The Council gladly takes this opportunity of publicly acknowledging its grateful thanks and deep indebtedness to Miss Prince of the National Library for the Blind, for the courtesy and privilege, always readily granted, of permitting the use of her Library for the regular meetings of the Council.

The London County Council and School of Librarianship.—A very happy result was reached, during the past year, to the request made by the Council to the Education Authorities of the London County Council to include the study of librarianship in the curriculum of the Evening Continuation Schools. Conferences were held, during a period extending over two years, and finally last September the Education Officer announced that the London County Council would make a grant of £200 per annum for a period of three years to the School of Librarianship in return for which 25 free places would be awarded to assistants of the London area. Needless to add the 25 free places were duly awarded and the selected assistants commenced their studies last October.

Honorary Fellowship.—At the July Council meeting it was unanimously agreed that the highest distinction of the Association should be offered Mr. H. A. Sharp, upon his retirement from a long official connection with the Association. The certificate of Honorary Fellowship, suitably framed, was in the name of the Association, presented to Mr. H. A. Sharp, by the Vice-President (Mr. G. F. Vale), at the December meeting of the Association held at the National Liberal Club.

Promotions.—The happy fate of translation to the position of Chiefship has befallen several of our members during the past year. In July last Col. Luxmoore Newcombe was appointed to the very important post of Librarian of the Central Library for Students. Col. Newcombe is well known to all members of the Association for the quiet but very effective work he has done, and is ever ready to do now, for the Association. In January, Mr. Harry Cross was appointed to the Librarianship of Kingston-on-Thames. In April two extremely valuable and honoured members of the Association were advanced to the

Chiefships of their Libraries : Mr. F. M. Bunce to the Librarianship of Reading, and Mr. J. P. Lamb to that of Sheffield.

The Future.—This year has seen the realisation of our several times deferred hopes, and the membership of the Association now runs into four figures, for the first time in its thirty-two years, history of steady growth and usefulness. These figures prove that the past year has again been one of steady and persevering endeavour. In every part of the country regular and cheering progress has been made. And it should always be borne in mind that the whole of the organization and administration of the Association throughout the country is, and has always been, carried out by voluntary and enthusiastic service. It surely cannot be long before every Assistant in the United Kingdom will realise that it is his or her duty to become a member of the Association of Assistant Librarians. The advantages of co-operation with fellow-workers are too obvious to be unduly stressed, and every Assistant should, by taking a virile and energetic part in the activities and deliberations of the Association, help forward its aims and ideals. Sooner or later it may be found advisable that all who are engaged in the administration of libraries, and more particularly municipal libraries, should be brought together in one great body, and when that time arrives, the interest of the assistant (by far the largest part of the profession numerically) must be carefully guarded. Consequently it is incumbent on every assistant to pull his weight. The foundations are well and truly laid, and we would appeal to every Assistant Librarian to see to it that when the superstructure is erected it will be an edifice worthy of those by whom it was built. May we in conclusion say to every assistant who is outside our ranks : your duty is clear, your professional future is in the hands of the Association, and therefore we hope you will grasp the hand of fellowship held out to you with alacrity and enthusiasm.

Signed on behalf of the Council.

G. W. STROTHER, *President.*
GURNER P. JONES, *Hon. Secretary.*

May, 1927.

RECORD OF MEETINGS, OCTOBER, 1926 - MAY, 1927.

Central Association.

October 6*th*.—Inaugural Meeting at Lincoln's Inn.
3.15 p.m. ... Tour of Lincoln's Inn, visiting the Library, Hall, Chapel, etc.
7.30 p.m. ... Address: "The Bubble Reputation."
Speaker: Mr. Desmond MacCarthy.
Chairman: The President, Mr. G. W. Strother.

December 15*th*.—At the National Liberal Club.
6.30 p.m. ... Refreshments, by kind invitation of the Library Committee.
7.0 p.m. ... Address: "The Public Library from a Student's Point of View."
Speaker: Mr. A. C. F. Beales, B.A., late Inglis Student, King's College, London University.
Chairman: Mr. C. R. Sanderson, F.L.A., Librarian.

January 12*th*.—At Southwark Central Library.
6.30 p.m. ... Refreshments, by kind invitation of the Chief Librarian.
7.0 p.m. ... Address: "Fresh Thoughts on Book Selection, Cataloguing, and Classification."
Speaker: Mr. A. T. Austing, Ilford Public Library.
Chairman: Mr. R. W. Mould, F.L.A., Chief Librarian and Curator.

March 9*th*.—At West Ham Central Library.
3.30 p.m. ... Tour of the Municipal College, under the guidance of the Principal, Dr. Baillie, M.A.
5.0 p.m. ... Tour of the Essex Field Club Museum and Library.
5.30 p.m. ... Tea in the College Refectory, by kind invitation of the Libraries Committee.
7.0 p.m. ... Address: "Some Librettists of English Opera."
Speaker: Mr. F. S. Engall, Fulham Public Libraries.
Chairman: Mr. Councillor C. C. Thorn, Chairman of the Libraries Committee.

April 20*th*.—At Chiswick Public Library.
3.0 p.m. ... Tour of the Chiswick Polish Factory.
5.15 p.m. ... Tea, by kind invitation of the management.
7.0 p.m. ... Address: "Some modern Irish dramatists."
Speaker: Mr. P. A. Meachaen, B.A., Bethnal Green Public Library.
Chairman: Miss M. Gilbert, M.L.A., Librarian and Secretary.

May 18*th*.—Joint Meeting with Eastern Counties Division at Colchester.

12.30 p.m.... Lunch at the George Hotel, Colchester.
1.30 p.m. ... Visit to Castle, conducted by Mr. Alderman Gurney Benham, J.P., Chairman of the Library Committee.
Visit to Museum, conducted by Mr. M. R. Hull, M.A., Curator of the Museum.
2.45 p.m. ... Meeting of Junior Section. Paper by Mr. A. V. Steward of Norwich, entitled " On Probation."
3.15 p.m. ... General meeting.
Address : " Success, and some of its factors."
Speaker : Mr. C. Hayward.
4.15 p.m. ... Tea at the Town Hall, by kind invitation of the Library Committee. His Worship the Mayor officially welcomed the party.
5.0 p.m. ... Visits, under the conductorship of Mr. George Rickword, F.R.His.Soc. (late Librarian, Colchester Public Library.)

Highest attendance—95.

Junior Section.

A half-hour meeting was held previous to each general meeting.

Social Events.

November 24th.—Dance at Battersea Town Hall. Attendance, 100.
February 9th.—Dance at Fulham Town Hall. Attendance, 70.
April 6th.—Whist Drive at St. Bride Foundation Institute. Attendance, 28.

EASTERN COUNTIES DIVISION.

September 23rd, 1925.—At Great Yarmouth.

3.0 p.m. ... Business meeting.
3.30 p.m. ... Discussions opened by impromptu speeches :
(*a*) The obliteration of betting news. Introduced by Miss L. Smith (Norwich).
(*b*) Should the estimates of the Library Committee be liable to amendment by the local authority ? Introduced by Miss N. Wood (Lowestoft).
(*c*) Is the Public Library a luxury ? Introduced by Miss E. Pyman (Ipswich).
5.0 p.m. ... Tea by invitation of the Yarmouth staff.
6.0 p.m. ... Char-à-banc tour of Yarmouth.

In view of the meeting arranged to be held with the Central Division at Colchester, the Spring meeting, which would have been held in March, was abandoned.

XUM

MIDLAND DIVISION.

July 14*th*, 1926.—Summer Excursion.
The Excursion commenced with a Motor Coach Drive to Worcester, followed by a steamer trip up the Severn to Holt Fleet. After tea at Holt Fleet the party returned by steamer and motor coach to Birmingham.

September 22*nd*.—At Birmingham.
6.30 p.m. ... Annual Meeting at the Reference Library.
Chairman : Mr. G. L. Burton.

October 13th.—At Kidderminster.
2.15 p.m. ... Visit to local carpet factory.
4.30 p.m. ... Tea at the Oxford Café by invitation of Mr. Cr. J. E. Grosvenor, Chairman, Kidderminster Library Committee.
6.15 p.m. ... Meeting. Speaker : Mr. Leonard Chubb (Librarian, Technical Library, Birmingham).
Subject : " The Trend of Public Library Policy."
Chairman : Mr. C. Lindsay.

November 10*th*.—At Birmingham.
5.15 p.m. ... Tea at the Council House Canteen.
6.15 p.m. ... Meeting at the Reference Library.
Papers on " The Summer School of Library Service " were read by the Misses E. M. Bradshaw, M. E. C. Clegg and M. C. Sheffield (Members of the staff of the Birmingham Reference Library).
Chairman : Mr. C. Lindsay.

December 15th.—At Birmingham.
6.15 p.m. ... Meeting at the Reference Library.
The following papers, arranged by Mr. G. L. Burton, were read on " The Drama of to-day." Bernard Shaw, by Mr. C. H. Bird ; John Galsworthy, by Mr. T. C. Kemp ; The Film Drama, by Miss C. Jerwood ; Sir James Barrie, by Miss P. M. Vernon ; A General Survey, by Mr. G. L. Burton.
Chairman : Mr. C. Lindsay.

January 6*th*, 1927.—Christmas Party at the Shakespeare Rooms, Birmingham.

January 20*th*.—At Birmingham.
6.30 p.m. ... Meeting at the Reference Library.
Mr. C. Lindsay delivered his presidential address : " The Lending Library."

February 3*rd*.—Dance at the Vestry Hall, Birmingham.

February 9*th*.—At Walsall.
2.30 p.m. ... Visit to leather factory and lithographic works.
5.30 p.m. ... Tea at the Dora Café by invitation of Mr. Cr. Evans. Chairman, Walsall Library Committee.

6.30 p.m. ... Meeting at the Public Library.
Speaker: Mr. F. S. Price (Librarian, Walsall).
Subject: "The Child and the Library."
Chairman: Mr. C. Lindsay.

March 10th.—At Birmingham.

6.30 p.m. ... The Annual Magazine Evening. Twelve members contributed brief articles.

April 7th.—At Leicester. Joint meeting with the North Midland Library Association.

3.15 p.m. ... Meeting at the Museum.
Mr. G. L. Burton (Librarian, Sparkhill Library, Birmingham) read a paper "The Stranger within our midst: Conrad."
Dr. E. E. Lowe (Leicester), opened a discussion on "The numbering of Lending Library books to facilitate issue and stocktaking."

4.30 p.m. ... Tea, by invitation of the Mayor of Leicester.

5.15 p.m. ... Visit to the Central Library, the Guildhall and the Museum.

NORTH EAST DIVISION.

April 14th.—Newcastle (Armstrong College Library).
The afternoon was spent in inspecting the new Library, a description of which, the Librarian, Dr. Bradshaw, communicated to the L.A. Record, June, 1926.
The members were entertained to tea by the Principal and Council of the College.
Papers: "The Library and the Scholar," by Major Vernon Browne, O.B.E. (Mil.), M.Sc.
"The Inter-University Library co-operative scheme," by Dr. F. Bradshaw.
"Mediaeval stamped leather bindings" (illustrated by lantern slides), by Mr. Trevor Stevenson.
Chairman: Mr. W. H. Smettem.

June 23rd.—Barnard Castle. Summer outing to Barnard Castle, including Egglestone Abbey and the Rokeby country.
Mr. Sydney E. Harrison, Curator of the Bowes Museum, acted as host and entertained the Members to tea.
The Museum was afterwards inspected under the able guidance of Mr. Harrison.

November 3rd, 1926.—Gateshead.
The new library was visited under the direction of Mr. R. Lillie, Chief Librarian.
The Chairman of the Gateshead Public Libraries Committee (Mr. H. F. Fallow, J.P.), kindly invited the

Members to tea and afterwards delivered an eloquent and instructive address on "The Aims and Ideals of the Library Profession."

Papers: "Some Hints to Students of Literary History," by Mr. A. Rennie, Gateshead.

"Difficulties which confront the student of Library Routine," by Mr. F. A. Richards, Darlington.

"Ifs and Ans in an every-day Open Access Library," by Mr. C. Zanetti, Newcastle.

Chairman: Miss L. Green, Newcastle.

March 2nd, 1927.—South Shields.

Annual Meeting.

Annual Address by the Chairman of the Division, Mr. A. Rennie, Gateshead Public Library.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

October 15th, 1926.—Annual Meeting at Portsmouth.

2.0 p.m. ... Motor drive through Meon Valley, stopping at Droxford and Hambledon.

4.30 p.m. ... Tea at Hambledon, by kind invitation of the Portsmouth Staff.

6.0 p.m. ... Committee Meeting.

6.30 p.m. ... General Business Meeting.

Presidential Address, by Miss E. Gerard.

Chairman: Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Portsmouth.

Eastern Section.

January 19th, 1927.—At Public Library, Worthing.

4.0 p.m. ... Committee Meeting.

5.0 p.m. ... Tea at Mitchell's Restaurant.

6.0 p.m. ... Address: "Sussex in Romance and Verse."

Speaker: Miss E. Gerard, Worthing.

Chairman: Miss Marian Frost, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Worthing.

April 6th.—At Public Library, Hove.

4.0 p.m. ... Committee Meeting.

5.0 p.m. ... Tea by kind invitation of Mr. J. W. Lister, Chief Librarian, Hove.

5.45 p.m. ... Address: "Co-operation between Libraries and Museums."

Speaker: Miss Purdue, Hove.

Chairman : Councillor J. Markwick, Chairman of the Hove Library and Museum Committee.

Western Section.

January 20th.—At Southampton.

2.0 p.m. ... Visit to the S.S. *Olympic* and Southampton Docks.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea by kind invitation of the Southampton Libraries' Staff.
6.0 p.m. ... Magazine Evening.
Chairman : Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., City Librarian, Portsmouth.

March 30*th*.—The Meeting arranged at Bournemouth for this date had unfortunately to be cancelled owing to lack of support.

May 25*th*.—At Winchester.

3.0 p.m. ... Visit to St. Cross Hospital, Winchester.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea kindly provided.
6.0 p.m. ... Paper by Mr. J. V. Summerfield, Portsmouth.
Chairman : Mr. Pepper, F.L.A., City Librarian, Winchester.

YORKSHIRE DIVISION.

June 23*rd*, 1926.—At Bolling Hall, Bradford.

3.0 p.m. ... Address : Local maps, plans, and deeds in Public Libraries and Museums.
Speaker : Mr. W. E. Preston, Director of the Bradford Art Gallery and Museums.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea in Bolling Park, by kind invitation.
6.30 p.m. ... Tour of Bolling Hall, conducted by Mr. H. J. M. Maltby.

October 13*th*.—At Halifax.

3.0 p.m. ... Visit to Halifax Parish Church, conducted by Mr. T. W. Hanson. Talk by Bishop Frodsham.
4.30 p.m. ... Tea at the Education Office, by kind invitation of the Public Libraries Committee.
6.30 p.m. ... Discussion, opened by Mr. T. W. Muskett, entitled : "Wanted, a Library Policy."

March 9*th*.—At Sheffield. Annual Meeting.

3.0 p.m. ... Visit to Burngreave and Attercliffe Branch Libraries.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea at the Town Hall, by kind invitation of the Lord Mayor.

5.45 p.m. ... Annual business meeting.
6.15 p.m. ... Address : " Suggestions to a new outlook."
Speaker : Mr. J. P. Lamb, Chief Librarian.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

October 13th.—Annual meeting at Manchester.

Afternoon visit to the Newton Heath Glassworks of Messrs. Butterworth Bros.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea at Lomas's Café by kind invitation of the Manchester Public Libraries Committee.
6.30 p.m. ... Meeting at the Crumpsall District Library.
Presidential address : " The Pilgrim's Way."
Speaker : Mr. H. Fostall, Manchester Public Libraries.

November 24th.—Meeting at Liverpool.

In the afternoon a visit was paid to the White Star Liner *Baltic*, at Huskisson Dock.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea at the Walker Art Gallery, by kind invitation of the Liverpool and District Division.
6.30 p.m. ... Meeting in the Dante Room of the Gallery.
Address : " The Permanent Collection of the Gallery with a glance at the Autumn Exhibition."
Speaker : Mr. A. G. Quigley, Curator, Walker Art Gallery.

February 9th, 1927.—Meeting at Blackburn.

Inspection of the re-organised Lending Library during the afternoon.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea at the Criterion Café, by kind invitation of the Blackburn Public Library, Museum and Art Committee.
6.30 p.m. ... Meeting in the Education Offices.
Address : " Recent Re-organisation of the Lending Library."
Speaker : Mr. R. Ashton, Chief Librarian, Blackburn.

April 6th.—Meeting at Wallasey.

In the afternoon, a visit was paid to the Wallasey Gas Works.
5.0 p.m. ... Tea, by kind invitation of the Wallasey Libraries Staff.
6.30 p.m. ... Meeting in the Earlston Library, Wallasey.
Address : " Qualification in Relation to Registration and Specialisation."
Speaker : Mr. R. W. Lynn, Wallasey Public Libraries.
Address : " Can the 'Library Assistant' be Improved ? "
Speaker : Mr. W. G. Fry, Manchester Public Libraries.

Liverpool and District Branch Social Activities.

Theatre Nights.—Average attendance, 30.

September	15th.	Henry VIII.
January	14th.	Pantomime.
March	18th.	Sunny.
April	8th.	Chauve-Souris.

December 18*th*, 1926.—Christmas Social and Whist Drive. Attendance, 70.

March 11*th*, 1927.—Whist Drive. Attendance, 60.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL: REGISTER OF ATTENDANCES.

Austing, A. T. ..	...	Summoned to		20	meetings;	attended	20	meetings.
Bullen, R. F. ...	...	,,	,,	24	,,	,,	21	,,
Bussey, F. T. ...	...	,,	,,	20	,,	,,	20	,,
Cooper, R. ...	...	,,	,,	24	,,	,,	24	,,
Cross, H.* ...	...	,,	,,	12	,,	,,	12	,,
Exley, Miss E. M.	...	,,	,,	23	,,	,,	17	,,
Fairweather, Miss L. .		,,	,,	20	,,	,,	10	,,
Hunt, K. G.† .	...	,,	,,	6	,,	,,	6	,,
Jones, G. P. ...	...	,,	,,	27	,,	,,	27	,,
Rees, Miss G. ...	...	,,	,,	23	,,	,,	14	,,
Sandry, F. E. ...	...	,,	,,	27	,,	,,	27	,,
Smith, F. S. ...	...	,,	,,	20	,,	,,	20	,,
Smith, R. D. H.	...	,,	,,	23	,,	,,	19	,,
Vale, G. F. ...	...	,,	,,	27	,,	,,	27	,,
Waite, C. ...	...	,,	,,	20	,,	,,	16	,,

No record is kept of attendances of members residing over 20 miles from London.

* Resigned the Council December, 1926.
† Elected to Council March, 1927.

ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, 1926-1927.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance, 1925-26		90 6 1
„ Members' Subscriptions ...	111 12 0	
„ Divisional Subscriptions ...	105 14 9	
„ Sale of " Library Assistant "..	48 12 6	
„ Advertisements in " Library Assistant "	57 18 1	
„ Sale of A.A.L. Series	2 13 0	
„ Proceeds of Social events ...	18 5 0	
„ Miscellaneous...	0 6 10	
		345 2 2
		£435 8 3

This Statement is subject to Audit.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Printing " The Library Assistant "	224 3 9	
„ Distribution of " Library Assistant "	31 0 0	
„ General Postage	14 5 10	
„ Stationery and General Printing	14 11 5	
„ Subscriptions	8 8 0	
„ Delegates' Expenses	31 5 8	
„ Expenses of Meetings.. ...	4 9 10	
„ A.A.L. Library	4 9 2	
„ Social events	19 12 0	
„ Donation to Benevolent Fund	5 0 0	
„ Miscellaneous...	0 13 11	
		357 19 7
„ Balance, 1926-27		77 8 8
		£435 8 3

F. E. SANDRY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance, 1925-26		127 6 9
„ Profits from sale of " Sequels "	5 0 0	
„ Donations	22 10 6	
		27 10 6
		£154 17 3

This Statement is subject to Audit.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Grants...		25 0 0
„ Balance, 1926-27 :—		
By Investments	123 4 0	
On Deposit, P.O.... ...	3 8 2	
Cash in hand	3 5 1	
		129 17 3
		£154 17 3

F. E. SANDRY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Honorary Fellows.

W. J. Bennett, Tottenham.
W. Geo. Chambers.
S. J. Clarke, Penge.
J. F. Hogg, Battersea.
Eugène Morel, Bibliothèque National, Paris.
Henry Ogle, Ipswich.
Paul Otlet, Institut International de Bibliographie, Brussels.
R. A. Peddie.
H. R. Purnell, Public Library of South Australia, Adelaide.
E. G. Rees.
F. M. Roberts, Stepney.
H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., Brighton.
Geo. E. Roebuck, Walthamstow.
W. C. Berwick Sayers, Croydon.
Hy. A. Sharp, Croydon.
Hugh Smith, Bishopsgate Institute.
H. Tapley Soper, F.R.Hist.S., Exeter.
Archibald Sparke, F.R.S.L., Bolton.
W. B. Thorne, Poplar.

Fellows, Members and Associates.

Acres, Miss D., Twickenham.
Allen, Miss N. G., Newark.
Anderson, Miss E. G., Bethnal Green.
Andrews, Miss E. D., Wood Green.
Appleby, Miss P., Richmond.
Atkins, Miss D. F., Reading.
Austing, A. T., Ilford.
Axe, G. W., Stepney.
Bailey, J., Watford.
Bains, Miss D., Bedford College.
Baker, A. E., Taunton.
Barnes, C., Lewisham.
Barnes, Miss E., Battersea.
Barrie, Miss J., Croydon.
Bateman, R. P., Tottenham.
Bath, F. Haynes-, Croydon.
Batt, Miss V. E., West Ham.
Baxter, Miss M.. Fulham.
Beagley, S. G., North Riding, Y'shire.
Beall, Miss D. M., Wood Green.
Bearman, H. G. K., Leyton.
Beattie, Miss M., Kingston.
Bennett, G., Hampstead.
Bennett, P. W., Colchester.
Biddle, Miss C., Woolwich.
Biffen, N. W., Stepney.
Bishop, W. J., Royal College of Physicians.
Blackall, R. A., University College.
Blackman, A. J., Bethnal Green.
Blackmore, C., Stoke Newington.
Blackwell, P. E., Glasgow.
Blakey, A. A., Bermondsey.
Bogdin, F., Stepney.
Bolton, G. R., Watford.
Bonner, F. H., Croydon.
Bowley, Miss R., St. Marylebone.
Bowman, Miss E., Islington.
Boxall, C. G., Kensington.
Bradley, C. A., Glasgow.
Bridge, W. R., Battersea.
Briscoe, W. A., Nottingham.
Broughton, Miss E., Chiswick.
Brown, Miss L. M., Hackney.
Brown, T. R., Glasgow.
Browning, Miss R. H., Stoke Newington.
Bullen, R. F., Poplar.
Bunce, F. M., Reading.
Burden, Miss L. M., Bethnal Green.
Burgess, L. A., Cardiff.
Burgess, S. W., West Ham.

Bussey, F. T., Hackney.
Butcher, L. G., Canterbury.
Caistor, H. C., Gainsborough.
Callender, T. V., Chiswick.
Campbell, Miss C. M., Govan.
Camplin, Miss E., Hackney.
Carnell, Miss E. J., Exeter.
Carr, Miss L. M., Croydon.
Carter, Miss P. G., Islington.
Carter, W. A., Cripplegate Institution.
Carver, A. L., Swindon.
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